## **ABSTRACT**

A notebook including a plurality of sheets of paper bound together. Each paper of the plurality of sheets having a generally elongate opening located therein, each opening being aligned with an opening of any adjacent sheets of paper and being sized and shaped to receive a writing instrument therethrough. The notebook further includes a cover coupled to the plurality of sheets of paper, the cover being movable to a closed position wherein the cover is generally parallel to and faces a top sheet of the plurality of sheets of paper. The cover has at least one of a thickness or stiffness that is greater than each sheet of the plurality of sheets of paper. The notebook further includes a retaining mechanism to retain the cover in the closed position.